

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XIV, Issue No. 034

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 3, 2004

www.saipantribune.com 50¢

INSIDE



SPORTS

Super Bowl Kick

And once again, the New England Patriots have Adam Vinatieri's foot to thank for a Super Bowl victory. Tom Brady set up Vinatieri's 41-yard field goal with 4 seconds left to give New England its second NFL championship in three seasons with a thrilling 32-29 victory over the Carolina Panthers on Sunday night.

Page 28



Stewart's Fortunes

Moments before jury selection for the trial of Martha Stewart, her boyishly handsome stockbroker paused at the defense table, leaned in and exchanged kisses with her on the cheek.

Page 11



Janet Exposed

CBS apologized on Sunday for an unexpectedly R-rated end to its Super Bowl halftime show, when singer Justin Timberlake tore off part of Janet Jackson's top, exposing her breast.

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USCG imposes security zone

By EDITH G. ALEJANDRO
REPORTER

Vessel operators are being advised to steer clear of cruise ships that are transiting or moored within three waterways in the Pacific or they would face a stiff fine, or worse, imprisonment.

Specifically, unauthorized vessels should stay a distance of at least 100 yards from all cruise ships, or they would be meted \$10,000 in fines and 10 years of imprisonment.

This comes soon after the U.S. Department of Homeland Security established a security zone around cruise ships transiting or moored in the Philippine Sea, Guam's Apra Harbor (including Cabras Island channel), and Saipan's Tanapag Harbor, effective yesterday.

The security zone bars unauthorized vessels from entering the zone without appropriate permission.

"No vessel may operate within 100 yards of any cruise ship while this Security Zone is activated unless authorized by the Coast Guard Captain of the Port," said the U.S. Coast Guard in a Cruise Ship Security Zone Notice it issued yesterday.

The USCG warned that violators of the 100-yard security zone will be criminally liable and would face stiff penalties, as provided under the 33 Code of Federal Regulations 165.33.

Besides the \$10,000 fine and 10-year imprisonment term that would imposed

See USCG on Page 8



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

YOUNG SCIENTISTS

Budding scientists at Tinian Elementary School received Friday evening hands-on training in conducting chemical changes, viewing microorganisms, separating mixes, star gazing and bug catching with a black light. Facilitators NMC instructor Maria Aguon and physical educator Ed Temengil opened the seminar with discussions on youth growth and development. Local scientist and NMC instructor Howard Cole and Tinian High School teachers John Sutfin and Todd Blekner continued to raise enthusiasm as H-5 Science Night progressed.

Gov to resubmit his IFP to 14th Legislature

The administration will resubmit to the 14th Legislature its Integrated Fiscal Plan—a proposal that mostly seeks to increase certain taxes and fees, Gov. Juan N. Babauta confirmed.

The IFP was rejected by the 13th Legislature due to proposals in the plan that most House lawmakers in the previous legislature viewed as

unfeasible amid the economic slump.

"I will resubmit that [IFP] to the Legislature. I am not bonded to that and it's not cast in concrete. I'm flexible. We can look at some parts of that and if the Legislature wants to support parts of that, I'll be more than happy to work with the Legislature. We can address different parts of it," Babauta told reporters.

The Babauta administration was counting on revenues from the IFP to boost the Fiscal Year 2004 budget to \$228 million, projecting an additional \$15 million revenue from the increased taxes and fees.

Specifically, the IFP calls for a 10-percent reduction in rebates to generate \$3.42 million; 0.7 percent increase in user's fee to generate \$5.9 million;

\$100 increase in nonresident workers fee to generate \$3.1 million; driver's license/vehicle related fee increases to generate \$2.1 million; and 1-percent increase in hotel occupancy tax to generate \$490,000.

Such revenues generated from the IFP were supposed to benefit two depart-

See GOV on Page 8

Closure work on old dump begins

By JOHN RAVELO
REPORTER

Nearly a year after closing the gates of the Puerto Rico dumpsite, the CNMI government has finally identified funding sources to gradually implement the dump's final closure.

Public Works Secretary Juan S. Reyes said that private contractor Earth Tech is currently doing a use assessment for the dumpsite, saying the undertaking has been funded through the federal Brownfields grant.

Gov. Juan N. Babauta has also identi-

fied some \$2.9 million in CIP monies to fund the initial closure plan for Puerto Rico, the DPW Secretary added.

"Everything is in order," Reyes said. Once the assessment by Earth Tech is

See CLOSURE on Page 8



CUC panel defends new salary rules

By LIBERTY DONES
REPORTER

The April 2004 implementation of new compensation and reclassification regulations for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would give ample time for the CUC management to prepare for necessary changes.

See CUC on Page 8

Local

JOETEN SHARP TV

Governor signs Saipan scholarship law

Gov. Juan N. Babauta stamped his approval yesterday to legislation creating the Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Scholarship Board. The measure depends on continuing appropriation of \$1.2 million from a separate local law (SLL 13-8) that generates funding through poker and pachinko machines license fees.

In his transmittal letter to the Legislature, Babauta acknowledged that the scholarship program will provide additional financial assistance to all qualified Saipan students who are attending or have been accepted for enrollment in a college or university.

The chief executive commended the author of the legis-

lation, Rep. Arnold I. Palacios, as well as members of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation for crafting the legislation.

House Local Bill 13-48, now Saipan Local Law 13-21, establishes a scholarship board with five members who shall serve for two-year terms.

Babauta, however, recom-

mended that SNILD members amend this section to allow for the appointment of members with staggered terms in order to ensure better continuity of the scholarship program.

“Theoretically, the entire board may have new members every two years. If so, all of them will have to spend time getting familiar with the board’s duties and responsibilities. However, if the terms were stag-

gered, the board would always have members already familiar with the functions of the board,” the governor explained.

The new law establishes the scholarship board within the Office of the Saipan Mayor, whose task is to appoint members, subject to the advice and consent of the SNILD.

The board shall have control of all funds deposited in the scholarship fund. They are also tasked to

establish priorities for fields of study for which the scholarship assistance will be granted.

In signing the bill into law, Babauta reiterated quality education as one of the priorities of his administration. “I am very happy to sign this bill into law in order to provide opportunity to all qualified Saipan students to continue pursuing their education in an institution of higher education.”

(Marian A. Maraya)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rep. Justo Quitigua from Saipan looks on as Gov. Juan N. Babauta signs Saipan Local Law No. 13-8 establishing a Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Scholarship Board.

Fitial says he will appeal libel case

House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial vowed to appeal the Superior Court’s dismissal of his defamation lawsuit against the Marianas Variety newspaper, saying he will continue to fight to protect his good name and reputation against false charges and negative personal attacks.

“We will appeal because I will not let the [Marianas] Variety ruin my name, because I didn’t do anything illegal...I didn’t do anything wrong,” said Fitial.

During the 2001 general elections, former Rep. Stanley Torres had accused Fitial, who

was then running for governor, of receiving \$100,000 in “bribe money.”

“Stanley lied,” protested Fitial. “I never received \$100,000 from Willie Tan in 1985. I received \$25,000 from a friend, Willie Tan’s brother-in-law, to transport to Hong Kong for him.

“In order to avoid the hassle of having to make a formal customs declaration, the money was divided among my traveling companions and myself. Stanley Torres was included among us. Stanley also took the money. We all did, but, this is very im-

portant: None of us kept any portion of it,” he stressed.

When Fitial and his traveling companions arrived in Hong Kong in 1985, Fitial collected the money from his companions and delivered the money to the appointed party, as promised. No law was ever violated. Fitial had merely been traveling in transit through the Philippines and, with the assistance of a few traveling companions, simply transported funds and served as a courier for a friend.

“Those traveling companions can still testify in court,” assured Fitial.

“We won four out of five motions in the Superior Court,” said Fitial. “We feel very confident that we will win the appeal process.”



Fitial

DPH execs and House leaders agree to regular sharing of info

The Department of Public Health and leaders of the House of Representatives sat down yesterday morning in a meeting designed to share information between parties.

Lower chamber members, including House Speaker Ben Fitial and Health Committee chairman Rep. Crispin Ogo, met with DPH senior managers to talk of many

issues surrounding the Commonwealth Health Center and public health in general.

A DPH statement described the meeting as “very fruitful.”

“All parties involved were eager to share information, and collaborate on ways to improve the level of healthcare in the CNMI,” the statement added.

Both Public Health Secre-

tary James U. Hofschneider and Fitial were eager to schedule regular meetings between the lower chamber and DPH members to keep lines of communication fluid.

“Both parties are eager to work with one another in improving patient care, and public health awareness in the CNMI,” the DPH statement concluded.

cars unlimited

jollibee

Pete A. maps out agenda for 2004

Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio is back in Washington, D.C., arriving Monday in the middle of a snow and ice storm.

"Though the weather is lousy here and I would rather be back where it is warm, I have many things to address here in our nation's capital," said Tenorio.

While Tenorio was in the Commonwealth he hosted two Congressional visits. First in early December was Indiana

sources committee, I anticipate there will be an Oversight Hearing on the CNMI late February, and if that goes well, a bill will be introduced after that."

"Chairman Pombo is a brilliant and cautious man who is trying to build consensus among the committee. He is aware that there are members of Congress that have had problems with us in the past, and he wants to make sure that there won't be

anything preventing the passage of this bill," added Tenorio. "The Chairman and the other six congressmen on the CODEL were very pleased with what they saw while visiting the CNMI. Their visit can only reinforce our quest as all requirements, including population threshold and political maturity have been met, in my opinion."

Also on Tenorio's agenda is another special appropriation for water improvement in the CNMI. He said he would be submitting

the U.S. Corps of Engineers' Comprehensive Water Report to Congress to begin a campaign for increased federal awareness of the CNMI's water situation in hope of making the problem a federal concern.

"Once this is accomplished, I believe that substantial funding can be made available for water improvements, rather than piecemeal funding, which could jeopardize completion of critical water projects. Until we have good clean water flowing 24 hours a day in every home in the CNMI, I am not going to rest. This is not a luxury, it is a necessity, and the health and well being of our people depends on it," he added.

The last items on Tenorio's agenda are legislative actions to amend Headnote 3A regarding the importation of garments produced in the CNMI to ensure a continuing competitive advantage of the CNMI's only exports, and a private bill to assist the "stateless children" of the CNMI.

"We have recently begun exploring these last two items, and I will certainly keep my constituents informed as things develop," concluded Tenorio.



Remengesau

Rep. Dan Burton, and second, the U.S. House Resources Committee on Jan. 15 and 16 headed by Chairman Richard Pombo and six other congressmen, plus Interior Secretary Gale Norton.

Tenorio said both visits went smoothly and successfully. "I have an extensive legislative agenda this year, and I was very pleased that so many congressmen and Secretary Norton were able to visit our islands to observe for themselves our infrastructure, business activities, and the progress being made utilizing U.S. financial assistance."

Tenorio said he enjoyed being in the CNMI for the Christmas and New Year holidays as he was able to speak with many people. "It has been good to hear of their concerns and opinions on my performance first-hand. My stay has also renewed my energy to tackle some of our bigger challenges."

Topping Tenorio's agenda is the Delegate bill. "We have expended much time and effort on our quest for Congressional representation, and I see the work that I have done during the last two years finally coming to fruition. Working with the Re-

Rev & Tax releases 1120-CM forms

The Division of Revenue and Taxation is informing all businesses in the CNMI that the distribution of the 2003 1120-CM and instructions began yesterday, Feb. 2, from 8am to 4pm at the Office of the Division of Revenue and Taxation located at the Dandan Commercial Center.

All businesses are asked to pick up the forms during regular business hours.

"Please be reminded that the deadline for filing 2003 1120-CM is Monday, March 15, 2004 at 4:30pm," the division said in a statement.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE DEPARTURE FROM 2, 2004									
DEPARTURES					ARRIVALS				
Destination	Carrier	Flight	Time	Day	Origin	Carrier	Flight	Time	Day
Guam	SA	601	08:00	Mon	Guam	SA	602	18:00	Mon
Palau	SA	603	08:00	Mon	Palau	SA	604	18:00	Mon
Yap	SA	605	08:00	Mon	Yap	SA	606	18:00	Mon
Ulithi	SA	607	08:00	Mon	Ulithi	SA	608	18:00	Mon
Chuuk	SA	609	08:00	Mon	Chuuk	SA	610	18:00	Mon
Majuro	SA	611	08:00	Mon	Majuro	SA	612	18:00	Mon
Pohnpei	SA	613	08:00	Mon	Pohnpei	SA	614	18:00	Mon
Kosrae	SA	615	08:00	Mon	Kosrae	SA	616	18:00	Mon
Marshall	SA	617	08:00	Mon	Marshall	SA	618	18:00	Mon
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Marshall	SA	717	08:00	Mon	Marshall	SA	718	18:00	Mon
Marshall	SA	719	08:00	Mon	Marshall	SA	720	18:00	Mon
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Marshall	SA	753	08:00	Mon	Marshall	SA	754	18:00	Mon
Marshall	SA	755	08:00	Mon	Marshall	SA	756	18:00	Mon
Marshall	SA	757	08:00	Mon	Marshall	SA	758	18:00	Mon
Marshall	SA	759	08:00	Mon	Marshall	SA	760	18:00	Mon
Marshall	SA	761	08:00	Mon	Marshall	SA	762	18:00	Mon
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Marshall	SA	779	08:00	Mon	Marshall	SA	780	18:00	Mon
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Marshall	SA	795	08:00	Mon	Marshall	SA	796	18:00	Mon
Marshall	SA	797	08:00	Mon	Marshall	SA	798	18:00	Mon
Marshall	SA	799	08:00	Mon	Marshall	SA	800	18:00	Mon

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE				
City	Carrier	Flight	Time	Day
Guam-Saipan				
FRI 101	SA	600am	8:00am	Sat
Saipan-Guam				
FRI 102	SA	8:00am	8:00am	Sat
Guam-Saipan				
FRI 103	SA	10:00am	10:00am	Sat
Saipan-Guam				
FRI 104	SA	10:00am	10:00am	Sat
Guam-Saipan				
FRI 105	SA	12:00pm	12:00pm	Sat
Saipan-Guam				
FRI 106	SA	12:00pm	12:00pm	Sat
Guam-Saipan				
FRI 107	SA	2:00pm	2:00pm	Sat
Saipan-Guam				
FRI 108	SA	2:00pm	2:00pm	Sat
Guam-Saipan				
FRI 109	SA	4:00pm	4:00pm	Sat
Saipan-Guam				
FRI 110	SA	4:00pm	4:00pm	Sat
Guam-Saipan				
FRI 111	SA	6:00pm	6:00pm	Sat
Saipan-Guam				
FRI 112	SA	6:00pm	6:00pm	Sat
Guam-Saipan				
FRI 113	SA	8:00pm	8:00pm	Sat
Saipan-Guam				
FRI 114	SA	8:00pm	8:00pm	Sat
Guam-Saipan				
FRI 115	SA	10:00pm	10:00pm	Sat
Saipan-Guam				
FRI 116	SA	10:00pm	10:00pm	Sat
Guam-Saipan				
FRI 117	SA	12:00am	12:00am	Sat
Saipan-Guam				
FRI 118	SA	12:00am	12:00am	Sat
Guam-Saipan				
FRI 119	SA	2:00am	2:00am	Sat
Saipan-Guam				
FRI 120	SA	2:00am	2:00am	Sat
Guam-Saipan				
FRI 121	SA	4:00am	4:00am	Sat
Saipan-Guam				
FRI 122	SA	4:00am	4:00am	Sat
Guam-Saipan				
FRI 123	SA	6:00am	6:00am	Sat
Saipan-Guam				
FRI 124	SA	6:00am	6:00am	Sat
Guam-Saipan				
FRI 125	SA	8:00am	8:00am	Sat
Saipan-Guam				
FRI 126	SA	8:00am	8:00am	Sat
Guam-Saipan				
FRI 127	SA	10:00am	10:00am	Sat
Saipan-Guam				
FRI 128	SA	10:00am	10:00am	Sat
Guam-Saipan				
FRI 129	SA	12:00pm	12:00pm	Sat
Saipan-Guam				
FRI 130	SA	12:00pm	12:00pm	Sat
Guam-Saipan				
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Saipan-Guam				
FRI 132	SA	2:00pm	2:00pm	Sat
Guam-Saipan				
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Saipan-Guam				
FRI 134	SA	4:00pm	4:00pm	Sat
Guam-Saipan				
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Saipan-Guam				
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Guam-Saipan				
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Saipan-Guam				
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Guam-Saipan				
FRI 139	SA	10:00pm	10:00pm	Sat
Saipan-Guam				
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Guam-Saipan				
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Saipan-Guam				
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Guam-Saipan				
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Saipan-Guam				
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Guam-Saipan				
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Saipan-Guam				
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Guam-Saipan				
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Guam-Saipan				
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Saipan-Guam				
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Guam-Saipan				
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Saipan-Guam				
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Guam-Saipan				
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Saipan-Guam				
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Guam-Saipan				
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Saipan-Guam				
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Guam-Saipan				
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Saipan-Guam				
FRI 158	SA	4:00am	4:00am	Sat
Guam-Saipan				
FRI 159	SA	6:00pm	6:00pm	Sat
Saipan-Guam				
FRI 160	SA	6:00pm	6:00pm	Sat
Guam-Saipan				
FRI 161	SA	8:00pm	8:00pm	Sat
Saipan-Guam				
FRI 162	SA	8:00pm	8:00pm	Sat
Guam-Saipan				
FRI 163	SA	10:00pm	10:00pm	Sat
Saipan-Guam				
FRI 164	SA	10:00pm	10:00pm	Sat
Guam-Saipan				
FRI 165	SA	12:00am	12:00am	Sat
Saipan-Guam				
FRI 166	SA	12:00am	12:00am	Sat
Guam-Saipan				
FRI 167	SA	2:00am	2:00am	Sat
Saipan-Guam				
FRI 168	SA	2:00am	2:00am	Sat
Guam-Saipan				
FRI 169	SA	4:00pm	4:00pm	Sat
Saipan-Guam				
FRI 170	SA	4:00pm	4:00pm	Sat
Guam-Saipan				
FRI 171	SA	6:00pm	6:00pm	Sat
Saipan-Guam				
FRI 172	SA	6:00pm	6:00pm	Sat
Guam-Saipan				
FRI 173	SA	8:00pm	8:00pm	Sat
Saipan-Guam				
FRI 174	SA	8:00pm	8:00pm	Sat
Guam-Saipan				
FRI 175	SA	10:00pm	10:00pm	Sat
Saipan-Guam				
FRI 176	SA	10:00pm	10:00pm	Sat
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Daycare service for teen parents proposed

The 6th CNMI Youth Congress is deliberating over a measure that proposes to make mandatory the establishment of childcare centers in public schools where 10 percent or more of the student population is coping with early parenthood.

Youth Congress Vice Speaker Delbert Pua, author of the bill, explained that the intent behind the proposal is to lower the rate of teenage mothers who drop out of high school.

YC Bill 6-2, introduced during the Youth Congress' second regular session on Saturday, has been referred to the Education and Health and Welfare Committees.

"Many teenagers, who become mothers prior to graduating from high school, drop out due to lack of childcare. These teenage mothers would have graduated had they been provided with proper childcare. Therefore, it is the purpose of this act to reduce the number of teenage mothers who drop out of high school because of lack of childcare," read a portion of the bill.

The proposal recommends that the childcare center be available to all students of the eligible school, including fathers of children whose mothers do not attend the school, as well as faculty members.

The children would be under the care of paid, trained adults, at a ratio of 6:1 but not to exceed 10:1 children per caretaker, according to the bill.

It is also envisioned that students enrolled in family classes and Education classes would help out in running the center during class hours and free periods.

"Faculty members would be charged a fee that would be competitive with other local childcare centers," the bill stated.

According to YC 6-2, funding for the bill will be derived from fees charged to faculty members using the center, with additional funds to come from the school budget or general funds allotted from the CNMI Treasury, if necessary.

Proponents however touted the center as a not for profit endeavor and should be self-supporting in most cases.

"The school is given one school year to comply with the act, upon its approval by the governor. If a district fails to comply after the first one year grace period, it is given a warning and six months to open a center," the compliance section of the bill reads.

Failure of any school to implement after the prescribed grace period would automatically result to the school losing 1/3 of its funding allotted by the Public School System, says the bill.

Further, the school will again be given another six months to comply. If after the additional six months and the school is yet to comply, it will then lose 1/2 (from its original budget) of its funding, states YC 6-2. *(Marian A. Maraya)*

PSS students up for accountability tests

By **LIBERTY DONES**
REPORTER

Public School System students are in for a new round of assessment tests by April and May this year to check whether they are learning based on the academic standards set by the system.

PSS and the Pacific Resources for Education and Learning finalized middle of last year the assessment tools for science and social studies, completing the PSS' goal to measure all key content areas: reading, writing, math, science, and social studies.

Based on the PSS calendar, the spring assessment will be held Apr. 5-8 for Saipan and Rota, and Apr. 19-23 for Tinian.

Reading test will be administered to 4th, 8th, and 11th graders; math is for 3rd, 7th, and 10th; writing is for 5th, 7th, and 11th graders; science is for 4th, 8th, and 12th graders; and social studies is for 3rd, 6th, and 12th graders.

The PSS began developing standardized assessment tools a few years back as part of its goal to raise the learning standard of public school students. PSS said the assessment tools are culturally sensitive, containing questions that are local in context.

Results of these tests would reveal both the strong and weak points of students and their levels of performance.

In previous assessments, PSS measured student performance by gender and ethnicity, which revealed that "there's not a big disparity" between boys and girls.

On ethnicity, which is decided based on the mother's ethnic orientation, PSS saw that it was teaching all children equally, regardless of the diversity.

The new test results would allow PSS to scientifically calculate other plans of improving student achievement. The information would guide PSS teachers and administrators on what they need to do to meet the standards.

PSS stressed that it is "teaching to the standards, not teaching to the test."

Meantime, PSS also said that 10th Edition Stanford Achievement Test or SAT 10, a nationally administered assessment, is set for Apr. 26-30 for Saipan and Rota students, and on May 10-14 for Tinian students.

Those who will take this exam are students in 3rd, 5th, 7th, 8th, 9th, and 11th grades.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CEMENTED SUPPORT

Gov. Juan N. Babauta and Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente met with members of the CUC Board of Directors to cement their support for the goals of the Water Task Force. The Board requested for better communication between the two and decided to appoint a member of the Board to the WTF. The governor explained that the purpose of the Water Task Force is not to take responsibility away from the Water Division of CUC but to augment it with greater management attention to identify resources to fix the islands' water problems. The Board toured the new facility of the Water Task Force.

Asatsu-DK gets MVA advertising contract

The Marianas Visitors Authority has awarded its Japan advertising contract for 2004 to Asatsu-DK Inc. As such, it will be responsible for handling MVA's advertising activities within the Japan market.

Originally established in 1956, Asatsu-DK is a public company listed in the Tokyo stock exchange and is Japan's third largest advertising agency.

Besides managing MVA's advertising activities in Japan, Asatsu-DK's role will include updating and overseeing MVA's website upkeep and production.

The initial one-year contract went into effect on Feb. 1, 2004.

The advertising strategy will focus on promoting Saipan, Tinian and Rota predominately via the printed media.

A natural paradise located only a mere three-hour flight away from Japan, the Northern Mariana Islands will be promoted with special efforts made to target such audiences as families, the working women's market, golf markets, and marine sports and diving markets.

Asatsu-DK's appointment puts it in company with Marketing Garden Ltd., which represents and heads the implementation and development of MVA's marketing and public relations activities within Japan.

The number of Japanese visitors to the islands in Fiscal 2003 increased by 8 percent compared with the total number of visitors experienced in Fiscal 2002.

MVA managing director Jonas Ogren said: "We are extremely happy to welcome Asatsu-DK on board, and look both positively and confidently in having their work further promote the Northern Mariana Islands among the Japanese people in a positive and result-focused way."

cuc meet

tribune subs

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

CNM'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XIII, Issue No. 352

Published daily at 2/F Century Insurance Building,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

John Pangelinan PUBLISHER

Aldwin R. Fajardo EDITOR


Jayvee L. Vallejera ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL



DPW, AGO to meet on prison contractor's debts

Public Works Secretary Juan S. Reyes said yesterday he would meet with the Attorney General's Office in connection with close to \$600,000 in alleged unpaid taxes by Telesource CNMI Inc., the company involved in the construction of the multi-million-dollar Saipan prison project.

Reyes said he would seek the legal

advice of Attorney General Pamela Brown if the unpaid taxes could be used to offset the total cost of the \$17-million prison project.

Officially, though, Reyes said the Finance Department has yet to inform the DPW about Telesource's unpaid taxes.

The Finance Department notified the

federal court last week of the tax lien on Telesource. Revenue and Taxation director Estrellita S. Ada said the CNMI government has demanded payment for the liability, but the company has yet to settle the obligation.

The alleged unpaid taxes, which total exactly \$592,324.58, cover tax periods from 2001 to 2003.

"Therefore, there is a lien in favor of the CNMI on all property and rights to property belonging to the taxpayer for the amount of these taxes and any additional penalties, interest and costs that may accrue," the notice stated.

Construction work on the prison project slowed down sometime last

year, with Telesource complaining about the government's delayed payments. In Sept. 2003, Reyes disclosed that the government has made available the \$17-million funding for the Saipan prison project.

"We never delayed payment [to Telesource]," Reyes said. "The funding is in place." *(John Ravelo)*

DPS arrests man for disturbance in poker game room

By EDITH G. ALEJANDRO
REPORTER

Authorities arrested a 46-year-old man for creating a disturbance at the Orchid Poker game room in Garapan Sunday night after he threatened a game room employee during an incident.

Police department spokesperson Sgt. Tom Blas Jr. said law enforcers arrested Antolin John Luck and charged him with disturbing the peace. He was brought to the Adult Correctional Facility in Susupe where he was detained.

Police investigation said Luck was arrested around 8:25pm inside the Orchid Poker Game Room in Garapan after law enforcers were dispatched to the site due to complaints.

Report said Luck entered the establishment and bothered the employees and customers. When an employee confronted him, Luck allegedly responded by screaming profanities and threats at the employee.

The suspect also told the cashier that he would get his machete. At that point, Orchid Poker employees called police for assistance. Police said the suspect was intoxicated at the time of the incident. *(Edith G. Alejandro)*



READING SUCCESS TRAINING

Northern Marianas College's Lab School recently participated in a Reading Success Network training session. The target students were those in Grades 1-4 and guided reading lessons were the focus of the activity. Educators came from Majuro, Kosrae, Chuuk, Pohnpei, Palau, Yap, American Samoa, Rota, Guam, and Saipan to work with the students under the direction of Susan Hanson and Jennifer Padua, RSN Program Specialists from Hawaii. The educators and the students equally benefited from the sessions.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



USCG

From Page 8

on violators, the USCG warned that offending vessels might also be seized and held liable for any monetary assessments.

The USCG explained that the Security Zone will be in effect immediately upon the arrival of any cruise ship into the waterways listed and will be terminated immediately following the departure of the sea vessels.

"Unless cancelled earlier by the USCG captain of the port, monitor VHF channel 16 at all times to obtain security zone information," the Coast Guard advised.

Also, the advisory stressed that without permission of the captain of the port, unauthorized vessels and persons would be barred from entering or remaining in the security zone.

GOV

From Page 8

ments that provide essential health and safety services to the public.

The 13th House had unanimously agreed to reject the administration's

IFP, reiterating that increased taxes and fees would only compound the consumers' financial hardship in this time of economic crisis.

House legislators had aired that despite the need to generate more revenues for agencies in critical need

of more funding, it is wrong timing for the government to impose another degree of woes on consumers.

The administration has, however, reiterated that items in the IFP are open to discussion. *(Marian A. Maraya)*

CUC

From Page 8

This was how the CUC Board of Directors responded to concerns reportedly raised by some employees that the April 2004 implementation is too far off.

CUC board member Joseph Torres, who co-chairs the committee on personnel, said the decision was made following consultations with CUC management officials.

"The committee's recommendation had the input from the management, making sure that all the required policies are set in place," Torres said.

The CUC board adopted early last month a new personnel policy based on the findings of CUC consultant, Fox Lawson and Associates. The new policy aims to set the standards for personnel classification and compensation at CUC.

Torres said the personnel committee, as sanctioned by the board's majority, gave the management 60 days to prepare for the implementation of the Fox Lawson report. He said the April schedule also considers the payroll day for CUC personnel.

Among others, the consultant report revealed that CUC employees' salaries are below the national market but above the Pacific market.

It said that overall, CUC salaries are 1 percent below the overall market; 13.7 percent below the mainland market, and 15.1 percent above the Pacific market.

In adopting FLA's findings, the CUC board raised the CUC's entry-level annual pay from \$11,000 or \$13,000 to \$15,000.

It also approved a recommendation that incorporates hazard pay and night differential pay in the employee's basic salary.

The CUC board, based on the report, agreed that "hazardous working conditions are already considered when determining the pay levels for jobs."

Typhoon and on-call pay will continue to be given on top of the basic pay.

The CUC was earlier cited by the Office of the Public Auditor for applying varying rates for hazard and on-call pays.

The OPA earlier disclosed that almost 18 percent of CUC personnel were receiving on-call pay, which was not addressed in its interim Personnel Manual. The OPA said CUC's manual does not address such pay or explain who should receive it and how it should be computed.

CLOSURE

From Page 8

completed, Reyes said the CNMI would know what to do with the dump.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency officials who visited Saipan late last year said the federal agency would be coming up with a revised compliance schedule for the dump's final closure. At that time, the federal officials said they understood the CNMI's financial woes, which made the Commonwealth lag behind the compliance schedule.

The EPA defines a Resources Con-

servation and Recovery Act Brown-field as a facility "that is not in full use, where there is redevelopment potential, and where reuse or redevelopment of that site is slowed due to real or perceived concerns about actual or potential contamination, liability, and RCRA requirements."

EPA Pacific Islands Office manager John McCarroll and CNMI program manager Pat Young earlier underscored the need to implement the final closure of Puerto Rico to prevent leachate from contaminating the Saipan lagoon. Sited near the lagoon, the dump towers over

90 feet on some 20 acres of land.

The EPA had cited the CNMI for violating the Clean Water Act in the early 1990's after leachate from the dump was found polluting the lagoon.

After padlocking the gates of Puerto Rico in February last year, the Solid Waste Task Force noted the need to stabilize the dump's slope facing the lagoon to prevent possible collapse and contamination of the sea, an undertaking that needs several millions of dollars.

Felix M. Sablan, the chief-of-staff of Solid Waste Task Force chair Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente, disclosed

of plans to cap the dump with soil and revegetating it. Eventually, Sablan said the dump could be converted into a recreational facility like a baseball or soccer field.

The dump last received trash from households on Feb. 11 last year, eight days before the ceremonial padlocking of the facility's gates.

Based on previous research, Puerto Rico developed into a dumpsite shortly after World War II, when the military started disposing heavy scrap metal such as junk tanks and vehicles, as well as unexploded ordnances, at the

site. Since then, the dump had become a repository of toxic chemicals of both military and civilian origin.

On June 30, 1995, former CNMI Gov. Froilan Tenorio signed into law the Emergency Puerto Rico Dumpsite Closure Act of 1994, which became Public Law No. 9-43. The law also mandates the creation of an alternative sanitary landfill. The CNMI closed the dump in time for the opening of the multi-million dollar Marpi landfill, which the EPA described as the first fully compliant non-military landfill facility in the entire Pacific.

Public Auditor speaks at Chamber meeting

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will be holding the first general membership meeting of the year on Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2004, at the Hyatt Regency Saipan. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 12pm and is scheduled to last about an hour and a half.

This month's guest speaker is Public Auditor Mike Sablan who will be presenting the "Dos and Don'ts for CNMI Government Employees".

Sablan said the CNMI Ethics

Act, reported to be among the strictest in the country, will be the centerpiece of his presentation. It will specifically cover the special restrictions on disallowed gifts from businesses, illegal political activities in government offices, and conflicts of interest between public responsibilities, and private business interests.

Having conducted presentations to more than 3,000 government employees in the last two years, Sablan hopes that

expanding greater awareness of the CNMI Ethics Act to the private sector will promote greater trust and confidence in public service and accountability.

Also included in the agenda is the introduction of the newest members to the Chamber. These are the Marianas Public Lands Authority and Infosite Server. Both members will be provided their membership portfolio, which includes the bylaws, code of ethics, and the membership directory of the Chamber.

The SCC is comprised of about 140 members and seven committees. Each committee chairperson will outline their goals and objectives for the year and will invite Chamber members to be a part of the committee.

This year's committee chairpersons are Mike Schadeck for the Armed Forces committee; Jeff Boyer who will co-chair the Environmental committee; Scott Norman who will once again chair the Education committee; Jay Jones and Juan

Guerrero who will spearhead the Government Relations and Economic Development committee; Charles Cepeda who will direct the Events committee; and Alex Sablan who will take the lead for the newly established public/private efficiency committee.

The Chamber's meeting is held the first Wednesday of every month. All Chamber members and

guests are encouraged to attend. The entrance fee to attend the meeting is only \$12 per person to cover the cost of the meal.

To find out more about the Chamber's activities, if you are interested in becoming a member of the largest business organization in the CNMI, or if you require special accommodations to attend the meeting, please call 233-7150.



Sablan

Mificpa fundraiser a success

The Marianas Institute of Filipino CPAs and Accountants held a successful packed lunch fundraiser last Saturday at the 13 Fishermen Monument along the Saipan Beach Pathway.

Mificpa public information officer Marlon Estigoy said the project was a great success, as the association was able to sell more than 200 packed meals and attracted not a few walk-in customers.

"We we're really very happy which the outcome of the fundraiser. We thank all the people that helped us in the effort," he said.

Mificpa president Anabelle Ramos said the money raised from the packed lunch project would be used for its U.S. CPA review classes.

"This money will go a long way in financing our expenses during the classes. Mificpa is extremely glad that Saturday's fundraiser turned out quite well. I would like to express my gratitude to our membership and our friends for making it a rousing success."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ernst and Young employees had their lunch at the pavilion beside the 13 Fishermen Monument, which was the site of Mificpa's packed lunch fundraiser Saturday.

Mificpa will hold an orientation for its U.S. CPA review classes today at 7pm at the Philippine Overseas Labor Office inside the Nauru Building in Susupe.

Mificpa continues its commitment to help Filipino accountants achieve professional development through the holding of the U.S. CPA review classes. It invites other Filipino

accountants to become a member of the group. Annual membership fee is \$15. For more inquiries, call Malou Pasol at 234-9696/234-2628 or Ia Vilar at 322-4501.

NMC Lab School joins reading training

Northern Marianas College's Lab School recently participated in a Reading Success Network training session. The target students were those in Grades 1-4 and guided reading lessons were the focus of the activity.

The CNMI established the NMC Laboratory School in 1993 as a model school where new teaching methods, techniques, and skills may be implemented and where teachers and college students are trained under monitored conditions.

Educators came from Majuro, Kosrae, Chuuk, Pohnpei, Palau, Yap, American Samoa, Rota, Guam, and Saipan to work with the students under the direction of Susan Hanson and Jennifer Padua, RSN Program Specialists from Hawaii. The educators and the students equally benefited from the sessions.

Kauai volunteers count visiting whales

Some 137 Kaua'i volunteers turned out Saturday to take part in the eighth annual Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Ocean Count.

The participants spread out to look for whales from 15 shoreline locations around the island, said Jean Souza, Kaua'i Sanctuary Liaison for the government agency.

Souza said trained interpreters versed in scientific information about whales that travel Hawaiian waters helped out.

Whale watching locations for the count included: Lumaha'i Lookout, Princeville Hotel, Kilauea Light-house, Crater Hill, Kapa'a Lookout, Ahukini Landing, Ninini Point, Maha'ulepu Haula, Maha'ulepu Makawehi, Makahuena Point, Po'ipu Beach Park, Kaiwa Point, Port Allen Cemetery, Waimea Canyon Drive and the Pacific Missile Range Facility.

The average number of whales spotted at each site was 71, as recorded in a spreadsheet print out provided by Souza to The Garden Island.

The most sightings were made between 9am and 9:15am when a total of 97 were reported.

A free shore-based whale watch program called "Brown Bag with Whales" is to be held in Lihue every Friday this month. The public is invited to join the sanctuary staff and trained volunteer interpreters in watching humpback whales at Ahukini State Recreation Pier in Lihue, 11am to 1pm. Viewing scopes will be available.

(The Garden Island/PIR)

Solomons tourism on mend after sharp decline

Tourist arrivals in the Solomon Islands slightly increased last year, beginning a hopeful reversal of a sharp decline in recent years.

According to Morris Otto, general manager of the Solomon Islands Visitors Bureau, arrivals last year totaled 1,718—an increase of 60 over the year before.

Arrivals had plunged to 1,245 in 2001 from more than 15,000 in 1998.

Otto says the number of visitors started to pick up after the arrival of the Australian-led intervention force responded to disintegrating social and political structures in the Solomons after years of lawlessness and corruption.

Otto says the Visitors Bureau is expecting more than 10,000 arrivals this year and more the following year.

He says the reason for the gradual increase is based on the

downgrading of a travel warning imposed by various governments such as Australia, New Zealand, Japan and other countries whose visitors frequent Solomon Islands.

Otto adds that another reason is the improvement of Solomon Islands' image as a travel destination in some overseas markets as well as overseas wholesalers having confidence to sell Solomon Islands tourist attractions. (SIBC/PIR)



Public library to close periodically

Joeten-Kiyu Public Library is having new air conditioning units installed and would like to inform the public that the library will be closing periodically until the work is completed. The first closure will be on Thursday, February 5, 2004. Additional closing dates will follow.

"We will make every effort to inform the public ahead of time, however, we encourage the public to call 235-7322/3 before visiting the library or for more information on closing dates. We apologize for any inconvenience as work is being done to improve the library facility," the library administration said in a media statement.

Veterans of Saipan, Tinian battles sought

Veterans of the World War II battles of Saipan and Tinian will be invited to the commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the Battle for Saipan and Tinian to be held June 12-16, 2004 on Saipan.

The Committee for the Commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of WWII is soliciting help from newspapers, churches, state and local chapters of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Veterans Associations, non-profit organizations, and family members to help identify veterans to be recognized.

Anyone who knows a veteran involved in these battles should send their name and contact information to Jessica Jordan at marianas04-anniversary@yahoo.com, or call (670) 234-7212; fax: (670) 234-7211, or mail: PMB 409 Box 10000 Saipan MP 96950.

For more information about the 60th Anniversary of the Battle for Saipan and Tinian, contact Jordan or visit the website at www.WorldWarII.info.

ASVAB examination set

Attention to individuals 17-34 years old who want to join the U.S. Army.

The U.S. Army Reserve Center in Puerto Rico will be conducting the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery examination on Feb. 27-28.

On Feb. 27, the exam will be conducted at 4:30pm. The next day, Feb. 28, the exam will be held at 12:30pm.

According to a statement from the Reserve Center, joining the U.S. Army will enable anyone to further their education, travel to distant places, obtain valuable training to get a better job, serve the country and the Commonwealth, and get paid at the same time.

"Please sign in early for the test at the US Army Reserve Center, Puerto Rico 'The Base' or call 322-6680 and ask for SSG Roberts or Mr. Quitugua," the statement said.

For more information, call SFC Abadam or SGT Benavente collect at (671) 477-7330/7666.

Scouting Week activities lined up

Boy scouts in the CNMI will be observing Boy Scouts Week from Sunday, Feb. 1, until Saturday, Feb. 7.

The celebration started Sunday with the Boy Scouts Mass at Kristo Rai Church in Garapan at 9:30am. After the mass, the Scouts proceeded to the Boy Scouts Headquarters and raised their troop flags.

From Feb. 2 to 6, each unit will do their community service at their respective Charter Organization.

On Saturday, Feb. 7, the Boy Scouts and their leaders will meet at the fishing base at 7:30am to plant flowers and trees in that area as part of their community service projects.

At 10:30am the Scouts will hike down to the Kilili Beach for lunch, followed by the recognition of the Scouts' leaders, charter organization, District Committee members and FSO.

Business

Some hold firm as jobs go overseas

By **JUSTIN POPE**
AP BUSINESS WRITER

Like many Americans, Michael Prince worries about the economic impact of "offshoring," the trend of sending information-technology jobs to countries like India and the Philippines.

But politics isn't why Prince isn't exporting info-tech work at his own company. The IT chief at retail chain Burlington Coat Factory simply isn't convinced it's good business.

"I'm always under pressure to squeeze out savings," said Prince, who supervises a staff of about 180 that keeps the Burlington, N.J., company and its

300-plus stores humming. "But you can work cheap, or you can work smart."

Nobody's arguing that the migration of tech jobs to countries that offer skilled workers and cheap wages is simply a fad. Forrester Research predicts at least 3.3 million white-collar jobs and \$136 billion in wages will leave the United States by 2015.

For businesses, the appeal is undeniable. Thanks to the Internet, jobs like software development and systems maintenance can be handled in countries where workers are well-trained and speak English, but command about one-sixth the wages of an American worker.

But as the offshoring wave breaks around them, some executives like Prince are holding firm, insisting it isn't the panacea.

"It's absolutely cheaper," said Jim Burdiss, the chief information officer at Smurfit-Stone Container Corp., a Chicago-based manufacturer of paper packaging products that has eschewed sending tech work offshore. "But you have to look at the risk associated with it, both geopolitical as well as the morale factor with your employees."

Experts say plenty of companies are handling offshoring well and reaping genuine rewards.

But many of the well-doers are big, IT-heavy companies like General Electric and Citigroup. They have been at it for years and have taken things slowly. They also have huge economies of scale, whereas Burdiss said the math simply didn't add up for his smaller company.

There is some evidence of a slowdown in outsourcing, the more general trend of which tech offshoring is a subset.

A recent survey by TPI Inc., an outsourcing advisory firm, found that the biggest outsourcing contracts (\$200 million and up) were flat in 2003 at \$55.7 billion, while the number of smaller contracts fell.

Peter Allen, a TPI managing director, said that when clients ask for advice on outsourcing, 30 percent of the time he advises against it.

Many companies have already had a bad experience.

In a survey conducted by DiamondCluster, a Chicago consulting firm, 78 percent reported having prematurely ended at least one outsourcing contract. Because it's a hot political topic, those failures tend to attract particular attention when they involve offshoring; investment bank Lehman Brothers and Dell Inc. have been in headlines after moving call-center work back to the United States.

In some industries, like accounting and drug development, worries about how U.S. regulators will respond have slowed offshoring, said Christopher Koch, executive editor of CIO magazine, a publication for corporate information officers. Similarly, defense contractors face rules limiting involvement by foreign nationals in some projects.

But the more common problems relate to communications—and not just trouble understanding accents. Experts say companies often fail to anticipate how much money and energy they'll spend dealing with cultural differences.



Martha Stewart arrives at the federal courthouse in New York for opening statements in her securities fraud trial Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2004. AP

Stewart's fortunes linked to co-defendant

By **TOM HAYS**
AP WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Moments before jury selection for the trial of Martha Stewart, her boyishly handsome stockbroker paused at the defense table, leaned in and exchanged kisses with her on the cheek.

The greeting seemed affirmation that Stewart's bond with her co-defendant, Peter Bacanovic, was still strong despite government accusations they lied about a well-timed stock trade.

But the case took an unexpected turn last week that could strain their unified defense.

The twist involved the government's star witness, former Bacanovic assistant Douglas Faneuil. He was expected to testify that Bacanovic instructed him to give Stewart a secret tip that led her to sell nearly 4,000 shares of ImClone Systems stock in 2001, just before it plummeted on bad news.

Stewart and Bacanovic—whose attorneys spent months

together devising a defense strategy—say they had agreed beforehand to sell ImClone if the stock fell to \$60 per share.

However, Bacanovic's attorney also has suggested Faneuil, star-struck by the domestic style-setter, decided on his own to tip Stewart about the stock's impending drop.

And Faneuil's testimony was delayed last Thursday by the surprise disclosure of an FBI interview with his former attorney. In a blow to prosecutors, transcripts of the interview suggest ImClone founder Sam Waksal himself—not Bacanovic—might have asked Faneuil to tip Stewart.

Bacanovic's lawyers could use the document to subtly distance their client from Stewart while bolstering his defense, said Dan Small, a former federal prosecutor in Boston.

Bacanovic "doesn't want to help the government by pointing the finger at Martha Stewart," Small said. "But he also doesn't want to go down with the ship."

The stakes are high: Stewart

is charged with obstruction of justice, securities fraud and other counts that carry a total of 30 years of prison time. Bacanovic faces up to 25 years if convicted of perjury, conspiracy and other charges.

While not exposed to the level of scrutiny aimed at Stewart, Bacanovic, 41, has seen his share of press, good and bad. Some portray him as a shallow social climber who sabotaged himself by lying to regulators, others as an honorable person with an intense devotion to friends and investors.

Bacanovic "has always been very social," a tireless worker with the rare ability to convert friends into clients, said his brother, Paul, an investment banker at Lehman Brothers.

Successful brokers "start work when they leave the office," he said. "That was especially true in my brother's case."

After a brief stint at ImClone's marketing department, Bacanovic joined Merrill Lynch in 1993. He became one of the firm's top-producing brokers,

with a list of well-heeled clients who invested tens of millions of dollars with him.

"He's no lightweight," Paul Bacanovic said. "No one handed him any clients."

He was refined enough to fit in with his clients in high society settings, where he has been photographed smiling and mixing with Stewart. A bachelor, Bacanovic was known to sometimes escort older socialites to galas and cultural events—fodder for unflattering gossip items since his indictment.

Friends and family of Bacanovic have been quoted insisting his social acumen and relationship with Stewart have been overemphasized and distorted. They say his friendships run deep, but that his loyalty to Stewart was strictly about business.

Bacanovic—after purposely keeping a low profile in the months leading up to the trial—expects to clear his name and resume his career, his brother said.

"Everyone who knows him knows this is ridiculous," he said.

Analysts: Oil supply fears overblown

Concerns about record-low supplies underpin today's high oil prices, although some experts argue these fears are overblown and unnecessarily harmful to consumers.

"The biggest myth in oil markets right now is that we have precariously low levels of inventory," said Fadel Gheit, senior energy analyst at Oppenheimer & Co. in New York.

"This is a tremendous disservice to consumers," Gheit added. "Traders are using the government numbers to put the fear factor in the market."

The Energy Department reported last week that commercial supplies of crude dropped to their lowest level since 1974, so there's no disputing that inventories are lean by historical standards. However, advances in information technology and logistics have enabled the oil industry—like much of the U.S. economy—to operate efficiently with less of an inventory cushion than ever before.

Analysts say the industry has systematically reduced inventories in recent decades. Capital once spent on fuel storage is

now directed to increasingly expensive, and lucrative, oil exploration and production activities, giving investors more bang for their bucks.

Supplies are especially tight now because oil executives are reluctant to build inventories when prices are high, preferring to use up existing stocks and wait for prices to drop.

Although this leaves less margin for error for refiners, which need a steady stream of oil to make gasoline, heating oil and jet fuel, industry officials say fears of shortages are exaggerated, either out of ignorance or greed.

"There's really no good economic reason why crude prices are so high right now," said Mary Rose Brown, a spokeswoman for Valero Energy Corp., one of the nation's biggest refiners. "It's just the hype in the market."

Oil futures have been valued above \$30 a barrel for much of the past year and higher fuel prices have squeezed the pockets of motorists, homeowners and energy-intensive industries. (AP)

China Southern Airlines to buy 27 jets

China Southern Airlines Co. said Monday it plans to buy 21 aircraft from the European consortium Airbus and six from a Brazilian manufacturer.

China Southern, based in the mainland city of Guangzhou, said in a public statement that its board of directors has given "in-principle approval" for the purchase of 15 A320-200 and six A319-100 aircraft. Chinese President Hu Jintao first announced the purchase from Airbus during his French tour last week.

The company did not dis-

close the financial details of the deal and it was not immediately clear when the jets were to be delivered.

China Southern also said it has signed a final agreement with Brazil's Empresa Brasileira de Aeronautica SA, better known as Embraer, for the purchase of six smaller, regional jets.

The EMB-145LR model jets will be paid for in cash and delivered in stages through 2004 and 2005, the company said. The list price of the Embraer jets is \$20.1 million each. (AP)

High-priced Super Bowl ads make cheap hits

By JUSTIN BACHMAN
AP BUSINESS WRITER

Even before the football teams came close to scoring, some of the high-priced commercials were racking up points Sunday night. But some of the hits were a little cheap.

There was plenty of aiming for a certain area of male anatomy, and not just by the makers of drugs for erectile dysfunction.

In a telecast that featured commercials for at least two of the three drugs for male sexual potency, Bud Light scored early with two amusing ads.

One spot featured two guys at a hunting camp compare their canines' talents. One has a dog that fetches a Bud Light from a cooler. "What can your dog do?" asks the pleased owner. "Bud Light," commands the man wanting a beer, prompting his scroungy pooch to lunge for the pants of the other guy, who squeals and flings his bottle.

In the other ad, comedian Cedric the Entertainer wanders into the wrong room at a spa while waiting for his massage, distracted on his way by a refrigerator loaded with Bud Light. The puzzled attendant gives him the treatment—a bikini wax.

"Is there a breeze in here?" Cedric asks afterward, sitting in a bathrobe.

Sierra Mist soda explored the same territory. And one can only hope Wallace, the kilt-wearing bagpiper in their ad, is wearing a certain piece of football gear as he gets relief from the heat by exposing himself to blasts of liquid hydrogen. A boy looking on says, "That's just wrong, Dad."

Wallace may soon be a candidate for the dysfunction drugs.

The newest entrant in that prescription drug category, Cialis, offers romantic scenes of couples in a commercial that asks: "If a relaxing moment turns into the right moment, will you be ready?"

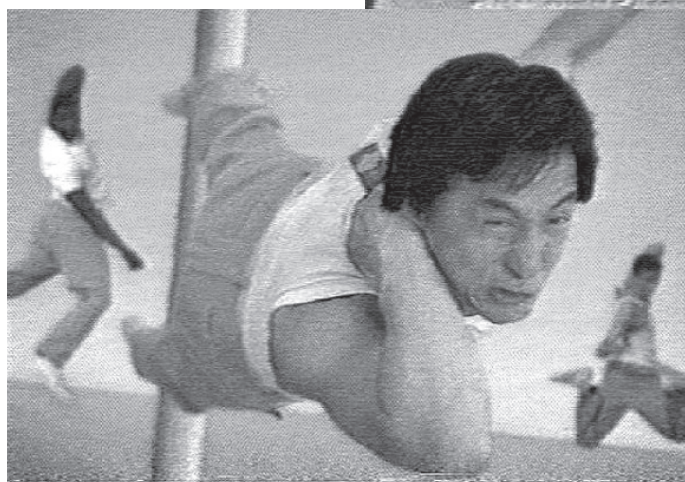
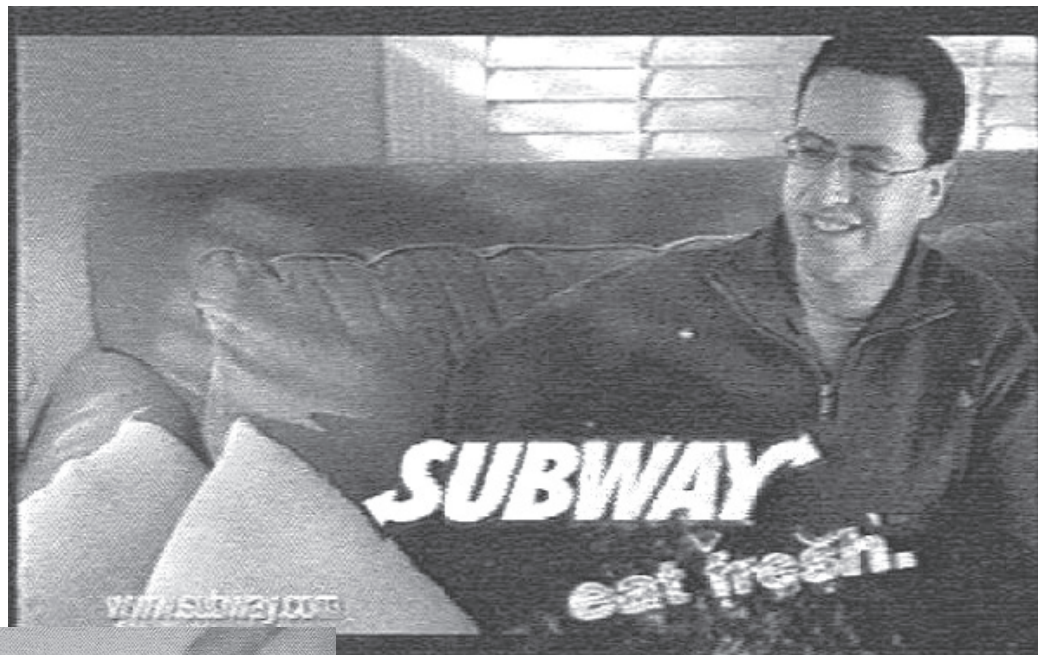
CBS charged \$2.3 million this year for each 30-second spot, up from \$2.2 million last year. The commercials command such steep prices because the broadcast commands a unique audience: more than 100 million viewers who don't channel surf for four-plus hours.

Moreover, in numerous surveys each January, more than a quarter of Americans say they tune in solely for the commercials.

The American Legacy Foundation offered an elaborate anti-smoking spot featuring Shards O' Glass Freeze Pops, a treat with glass frozen inside. "What if all companies sold products like tobacco," the close-out line asks.

Pharmaceutical giants Bayer AG and GlaxoSmithKline hired former Chicago Bears coach Mike Ditka to tout their new anti-impotence drug, Levitra, by noting some differences between football and baseball. One is played in all sorts of weather, with a markedly different pace, Ditka notes, taking a swipe at the summer sport.

"Baseball could use Levitra," Ditka concludes.



Apple Computer and PepsiCo used the game to kick off their iTunes music store promotion—and to tweak the recording industry's legal assault on Internet song-swapping. The companies are awarding 100 million song downloads from the Apple retail site through bottle tops.

Keeping to its musical theme this Super Bowl, Pepsi imagined the day an 11-year-old James Marshall Hendrix contemplates an electric guitar in the window

of a Seattle shop located near a Pepsi vending machine. Nearby, a Coke machine sits outside a store selling an accordion.

Super Bowl ratings have risen over the past few years, reaching 88.6 million last year, according to Nielsen Media Research, up from 84.3 million in 2001, the last time CBS had the game. The broadcast rotates among ABC, Fox and CBS as part of the NFL's \$17.6 billion, eight-year TV deal announced in 1998.

Best and worst Super Bowl ads

By JUSTIN BACHMAN
AP BUSINESS WRITER

The second Super Bowl competition Sunday—the advertising battle among expensive, lavishly produced television spots—was a contest played by the marketers of drugs and soft drinks, cars and computers. Each 30-second commercial cost \$2.3 million this year.

Here is one viewer's rundown, by category, of which ads caught the eye and which dropped the pass.

FUNNIEST: Pepsi ad dubbed "Diner," directed by Spike Lee with "The Parkers" star Mo'Nique as a waitress trying to comfort a heartbroken customer with a sandwich and a Pepsi, which restores his faith in love. As the Biz Markee classic "Just a Friend" plays in the background, the happy new couple frolic. "So tell me what you think about my eyes again, player," she says.

MOST SERIOUS: The anti-smoking spot "Shards O' Glass," from the American Legacy Foundation featuring freeze pops covered in glass shards. "What if all companies sold products like tobacco," the overline asks.

MOST EXPENSIVE-LOOKING: Visa commercial featuring a volleyball game on a snow-covered beach, icicles hanging from the net as the women played in frigid weather because they can't wait for the Summer Olympics.

MOST DISTURBING: Sierra Mist spot with bagpipe player seeking solace from the heat by standing on a grate, frigid air blowing into his kilt. Even a boy looking on notes, "That's just wrong."

FUNNIEST LIE: Expedia.com's first Super Bowl commercial touts its various travel search functions. As a husband and wife

planning a trip. As the husband searches for activities at their destination, she mentions wanting to see an avant garde stage show. Envisioning an unwanted trip onstage, where his shirt is stripped off and his flab etched with marker, the husband tells her all the tickets are sold out.

BEST SOPRANOS KNOCK-OFF: Staples' Super Bowl debut, where a thuggish office-supply clerk extorts workers for pastries when they request office supplies. Ominous music and poor lighting make Randy a menacing mob boss, until an enterprising employee finds Staples and declares his freedom from the racket.

CLEVEREST: Pepsi envisions a 1953 day when a young Jimi Hendrix munches a slice of pizza and buys a Pepsi outside a store with an electric guitar in the window. A Coke machine sits outside a pawnshop nearby, where an accordion is for sale. "Whew ... that was a close one," the spot reads after an accordion rendition of "Purple Haze."

DUMBEST: An elaborate montage of black-and-white images touting Gillette's Mach 3 Turbo razor, complete with overwrought prose such as, "It's like having an angel by your side."

BEST FOR A LOUD-BAR: Frito Lay ad "Grandparents" for new crispier version of its potato chip. Without words, an older couple contends for a potato chip, with the man tripping the woman and driving his cane into her back as he strolls past. Gloating, the man gets the chip only to turn and see her holding his artificial teeth.

MOST MISOGYNISTIC: A coach screams at a catatonic referee on the sideline. Announcers wonder what kind of training the ref has had, to endure such a "beating." Then we see his wife screaming at him on the couch, as he stares ahead with same detached look.

Intel launching next-generation Pentium 4

By MATTHEW FORDAHL
AP TECHNOLOGY WRITER

Intel Corp. is launching the next generation of its flagship Pentium 4 microprocessor on Monday, adding more memory to the chip and other features that should allow it to reach record speeds of up to 4 gigahertz by the end of the year.

The processor code-named

Prescott will be available at speeds ranging from 2.8 GHz to 3.2 GHz, with a 3.4 GHz model expected within a few months, said Bill Siu, vice president and general manager of Intel's Desktop Platforms Group.

The updated Pentium 4 will have 125 million transistors, up from about 55 million in the previous models. Most of those tiny switches will be devoted to

doubling the memory on each chip from 512 kilobytes to 1 megabyte, Siu said.

The chips will be physically smaller as Intel, for the first time, deployed an updated process technology that creates chip features as small as 90 nanometers. That also will make production more efficient, because more die can be made from each silicon wafer.

Intel also would not comment on whether its latest chip might someday support 64-bit extensions, which would make it possible to add memory beyond today's 4 gigabyte limit.

Advanced Micro Devices Inc. is already selling 64-bit chips for desktops, even though most software does not yet support it.

Intel has in the past added features to a new processor but only

switched them on later. In 2002, it released the Pentium 4 with Hyper-Threading, which tricks the operating system into thinking a PC has two chips instead of one. HT was inside previous Pentium 4s, but not enabled.

Prices of the new Prescott chips, when purchased in bulk, range from \$178 for the 2.8 GHz model to \$417 for the 3.4 GHz version.

STOCK	
ASIAN MARKETS	
Japan Nikkei	13,458.07
China Shanghai	1,458.07
India Sensex	1,458.07
South Korea	1,458.07
Thailand	1,458.07
Indonesia	1,458.07
Malaysia	1,458.07
Philippines	1,458.07
Singapore	1,458.07
South Africa	1,458.07
UK FTSE	1,458.07
US S&P 500	1,458.07
LEADING INDICATORS	
DOW	10,458.07
NASDAQ	2,088.15
S&P	1,131.13
MONEY MARKET	
3-Month T-Bill	1.35%
6-Month T-Bill	1.35%
12-Month T-Bill	1.35%
3-Month Euro	1.35%
6-Month Euro	1.35%
12-Month Euro	1.35%
3-Month Yen	1.35%
6-Month Yen	1.35%
12-Month Yen	1.35%
3-Month Dollar	1.35%
6-Month Dollar	1.35%
12-Month Dollar	1.35%



World



Life & Style

CBS apologizes for Jackson’s exposure

NEW YORK (AP)—CBS apologized on Sunday for an unexpectedly R-rated end to its Super Bowl halftime show, when singer Justin Timberlake tore off part of Janet Jackson’s top, exposing her breast.

“CBS deeply regrets the incident,” spokeswoman LeslieAnne Wade said after the network received several calls about the show.

The two singers were performing a flirtatious duet to end the halftime show, and at the song’s finish, Timberlake reached across Jackson’s leather gladiator outfit and pulled off the covering to her right breast.

The network quickly cut away from the shot, and did not mention the incident on the air.

Timberlake said he did not intend to expose Jackson’s breast.

“I am sorry that anyone was offended by the wardrobe malfunction during the halftime performance of the Super Bowl,” Timberlake said in a statement. “It was not intentional and is regrettable.”

Wade said CBS officials attended rehearsals of the halftime show all week, “and there was no indication any such thing would happen. The moment did not conform to CBS’ broadcast standards and we would like to apologize

to anyone who was offended.”

The Super Bowl halftime show, which also featured P. Diddy, Nelly and Kid Rock, was produced by MTV, CBS’ corporate cousin in Viacom.

“We were extremely disappointed by elements of the MTV-produced halftime show,” Joe Browne, NFL executive vice president, said. “They were totally inconsistent with assurances our office was given about the content of the show.

“It’s unlikely that MTV will produce another Super Bowl halftime.”

MTV issued a contrite statement, saying the incident was “unrehearsed, unplanned, completely unintentional.”



AP

Thousands await Groundhog Day prediction

PUNXSUTAWNEY, Pa. (AP)—A day before the world’s most famous furry forecaster makes his 118th annual weather prediction on Groundhog Day, people from as far away as England descended on this small town Sunday to shake the winter doldrums.

Mike and Anne Castledine, a retired couple from Derbyshire, England, caught groundhog fever after seeing the Bill Murray movie “Groundhog Day” and wanted to experience it for themselves.

Back home, “There’s really no knowledge of what it entails,” Anne Castledine said Sunday after driving in from New Jersey.

What Groundhog Day entails is a lot of revelry, although alcohol has been

banned from Gobbler’s Knob, the site just outside of town where Punxsutawney Phil issues his proclamation.

Music and dancing go on all night and the town’s population of roughly 6,700 grew to a record 40,000 last Feb. 2. Fewer people are expected this year because this year’s Groundhog Day falls on a weekday, but the festivities still include seven scheduled weddings.

“We couldn’t care less if he sees his shadow,” said Bill Cooper, president of the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club. “It’s a people holiday.”

If history is a guide, Phil will see his shadow, thus predicting six more weeks of winter. In the past 117 years,

the famous groundhog is reported to have seen his shadow 93 times.

The tradition is rooted in a German superstition that if a hibernating animal casts a shadow Feb. 2—the Christian holiday of Candlemas—winter will last another six weeks. If no shadow is seen, legend says spring will come early.

Punxsutawney Phil is probably the most watched on Groundhog Day, but he certainly isn’t alone among marmot meteorologists.

About 165 miles to the southeast, the Slumbering Groundhog Lodge of Quarryville has been forecasting with the animals since 1908, said James E. Pennington, chairman of the board of hibernating governors.

Singer Janet Jackson, left, covers her breast after her outfit came undone during a number with Justin Timberlake during the halftime show of Super Bowl XXXVIII in Houston, Sunday, Feb. 1, 2004.

‘You Got Served’ dances to box office win

By **DAVID GERMAIN**
AP MOVIE WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Recently split teen R&B band B2K put the moves on the box office as its dance flick “You Got Served” debuted at No. 1 with \$16 million.

The other new wide releases debuted weakly over Super Bowl weekend, typically a slow time at theaters as movie-goers stay

home Sunday for the big game.

“The Perfect Score,” featuring Scarlett Johansson and Erika Christensen as part of a group of teens swiping the SAT exam, was No. 5 with \$5 million, averaging an anemic \$2,264 in 2,208 theaters.

Owen Wilson’s comic crime caper “The Big Bounce” bombed with \$3.3 million, finishing at No. 12 and averaging just \$1,439 in 2,304 cinemas.

All three movies received harsh reviews, yet “You Got Served” managed to pull in the teen crowd on the strength of B2K’s popularity. Playing in 1,933 theaters, “You Got Served” averaged a healthy \$8,277.

The movie exceeded the box-office expectations of Sony, whose Screen Gems banner released “You Got Served.”

“It’s one of those movies that flies beneath the radar, then sud-

denly, it’s at No. 1,” said Paul Dergarabedian, president of box-office tracker Exhibitor Relations. “It just shows when you go after that teen audience, it’s an audience that definitely has power.”

The movie stars Omari “Omarion” Grandberry—who left for a solo career a month ago—and B2K members Jarell “J-Boog” Houston, DeMario “Raz-B” Thornton and Dreux “Lil’ Fizz” Frederic as part of a

Los Angeles street-dance crew.

Many of last week’s key Academy Awards nominees got a boost at the box office as audiences began catching up with contenders before the Feb. 29 Oscar ceremony.

“The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King,” the leader with 11 nominations and the front-runner for best picture, held up strongly with \$5.3 million, raising its domestic total to \$345.3 million.

That makes it the top-grossing installment of “The Lord of the Rings” trilogy, lifting it past the \$341.7 million domestic haul of 2002’s “The Two Towers.” “Return of the King” also has passed “Finding Nemo” (\$339.7 million) to become the highest-grossing movie released in 2003.

Best-picture nominee “Mystic River,” which went back into wide release the previous weekend, added a few dozen more theaters and took in \$4.4 million, pushing its total to \$64.9 million.

Jeff Goldstein, general sales manager for “Mystic River” distributor Warner Bros., said the movie has padded its take by \$9.5 million since it widened to more theaters in anticipation of the Oscars. The studio figures the awards run could boost the film’s take by as much as \$20 million, he said.

Two other best-picture nominees, “Lost in Translation” and “Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World,” expanded back into wider release.

Dave Matthews: Solo stint makes band stronger

By **RICHARD CROMELIN**
LOS ANGELES TIMES

BURBANK, Calif.—As he sits and talks on the shaded commissary patio at NBC Studios in Burbank, Dave Matthews seems every bit the Tom Hanks of rock—an approachable, unaffected everyman who’s managed to stay unsullied while rising to the top of a rough-and-tumble profession. And like the actor, Matthews is widely viewed as nice-guy bland.

After all, the complex but hearty music of his primary group, the Dave Matthews Band, is an eager-to-please concoction that has made the DMB the spiritual leader of rock’s thriving “jam band” subculture.

But when Matthews released his first solo album, “Some Devil,” late last year, we had something more complex on our hands. Intimate and reflective, the music sheds the Matthews Band’s hard-edged, high-definition hooks and regimented, unison riffing.

Its musical landscape is marked by weblike textures and loose-limbed rhythms, laid-back funk and reggae, string quartet passages and stark moments such as the title song—a troubled self-evaluation played as a dark, midnight blues, just Matthews’ longing vocal over the sliding chords of his guitar.

The contrast between these two sides of Matthews was displayed even more sharply on the brief solo tour he mounted this month. His Staples Center concert in Los Angeles contained gentle, subdued moments that simply couldn’t exist in the world of the Dave Matthews Band.

You’d think this disparity might set off an alarm for Matthews, or at least trigger some re-evaluation about his career path. Maybe more dates with this side group, which also featured another jam-band star, Phish guitarist Trey Anastasio, and Matthews’ longtime guitar buddy Tim Reynolds, would be nice. Twelve shows don’t really give it a chance. How about “Son of Some Devil”?

Not right now. Something else has really got a hold on him.

“I don’t think I’ve been as excited about going into the studio with DMB and writing with DMB in years, maybe since the first or second record,” Matthews, 37, said during his stay in L.A.



the week of the Staples show. “Because I did this project where I went in a different environment and faced different things.

“I recorded ‘Some Devil’ and then after it was finished went on tour with DMB, and I think it was our best tour in years. I was hearing really differently. I think maybe it’s going and standing in a different place, looking from a different perspective, being forced to behave and act in a different way and then coming back to what in certain ways had become somewhat habitual—suddenly it’s not habitual anymore. ... The more you go outside of it the stronger it is when you come back to it.”

It doesn’t really figure that Matthews would mothball the DMB just because “Some Devil” perked up some critics’ ears and gave him a musical buzz.

Not only has the band made the South Africa-born, Vir-

ginia-based performer wealthy, having sold some 25 million albums over the past decade and become one of the world’s top concert draws, but it also rewards him and his bandmates with an unusually intense devotion from an audience that has coagulated into a subculture usually identified as neo-hippie, one that cultivates the free-spirited values of the Grateful Dead and other ‘60s-era bands.

Matthews regards the DMB’s “jam band” stereotype as “dismissive,” an easy way for critics to categorize uncategorizable music. But at NBC Studios in Burbank, where he’ll be performing on “The Tonight Show” in a few hours, it’s clear that this all comes down to more than a simple career coin-flip or even artistic choice.

“I think that there’s something so solid about how I feel about DMB that the idea of

breaking up, doing anything dramatic and childish like that, is sort of absurd. That feeling allows you to go do something like a solo project. If I have an opportunity of going and learning something, it’s only gonna improve my relationship with the family that I’m in.”

So it goes in Dave Matthews’ perfect world, if it all works out. The family is waiting, and so are other possibilities down the road.

“I wouldn’t want to do a solo project right now, so it’s hard for me to really indulge the fantasy,” he says. “But when it becomes something that warms my loins, then I’ll start thinking about it—when I feel like it, when I have stuff that seems inappropriate for the band, or if I have a new idea, or if I want to do an album of intestinal sounds that may not require the entire band. I like to keep it a little bit open.”

Manilow hospitalized with chest pains

PALM SPRINGS, Calif. (AP)—Barry Manilow was hospitalized after suffering from chest pain due to stress, his publicist said.

Manilow, 57, was hospitalized Saturday after returning to his home from New York, where he and co-writer Bruce Sussman had taken part in “two of the most grueling days of arbitration” in a lawsuit over rights to the musical “Harmony,” publicist Jerry J. Sharell said.

“Harmony” was supposed to run in Philadelphia but was canceled in November because it fell short of its capitalization. A 1997 production at the La Jolla Playhouse in California also faltered and closed after mixed reviews.

The show, which has music by Manilow and book and lyrics by Sussman, is about the Comedian Harmonists, a group of singers popular during the last days of Germany’s Weimar Republic.

Manilow told the New York Post at the time of the Philadelphia cancellation, “Other than the death of my mother, this is probably the most devastating day of my life. Maybe even more so, because it affects so many other people.”

Judge tosses suit against Snoop Dogg

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A judge has dismissed a lawsuit accusing rap star Snoop Dogg of including a message left on his answering machine in a song without permission.

The lawsuit was filed last March in Los Angeles Superior Court on behalf of a man who kept his name secret because of safety concerns.

The man claimed his one-minute message appeared in a song released as part of the 2002 album “Paid the Cost to be Tha Boss.”

The message, left under the name Jim Bob, expressed the caller’s support for Snoop Dogg in his rivalry with rap music producer Marion “Suge” Knight, the lawsuit said.

The plaintiff sought a monetary award from Snoop Dogg, whose real name is Calvin Broadus, and other defendants, including Capitol Records.

Superior Court Judge Lawrence W. Crispo, however, first ruled in November that the plaintiff had no expectation to privacy when he left the message. Crispo upheld the ruling Jan. 8 after the man didn’t file a motion for the judge to reconsider.



ANOTHER AWARD

Peter Jackson, director of the “Lord of the Rings” trilogy, displays the Modern Master award he received at the Santa Barbara International Film Festival in Santa Barbara, Calif., Saturday, Jan. 31, 2004. The New Zealand native picked up the award along with a stuffed kiwi. Jackson’s most recent film, “The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King,” won Golden Globes for best picture and director, and is nominated for 11 Oscars this year, including best picture, director and adapted screenplay.

Trebek to resume ‘Jeopardy!’ after wreck

LOS ANGELES, Calif. (AP)—“Jeopardy!” host Alex Trebek will resume taping his Emmy award-winning quiz show Tuesday after escaping serious injury when he fell asleep at the wheel of his pickup truck on a rural road.

The 63-year-old television host was driving alone in the Central Coast town of Temple-

ton around 2:30 p.m. Friday when his truck drifted off the road, sideswiped a bank of mailboxes and sailed over an embankment into a ditch.

Trebek was not hospitalized and was not cited.

“I am very lucky and thankful that no one was badly hurt,” he said in a printed statement. “My

back hurts a little, but I plan to be in the studio this Tuesday for our regular tapings.”

Trebek owns and manages a horse breeding and training farm about eight miles southeast of Templeton. He was returning from a family lake home in Lake Nacimiento when the accident occurred.

LA mayor expected to honor Ray Charles

LOS ANGELES (AP)—At 73, Grammy-winning singer Ray Charles is still humbled by the praise he has received throughout his career, especially from fellow artists.

Charles recently was presented with the President’s Merit Award from the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences.

“Music is my life, professionally, for nearly 60 years. To be recognized by the academy is still the highest honor,” Charles said.

This month, Los Angeles Mayor Jim Hahn is expected to declare Charles the city’s “cultural treasure” as part of African-American heritage month.

Charles, an original inductee into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, won his first Grammy in 1960 for “Let the Good Times Roll.” In 1987, he received the academy’s award for lifetime achievement. In all, Charles has won 13 Grammys.

He had hip surgery late last year and plans to begin touring again in March.

Threats may lead to violence if boyfriend is left unchecked

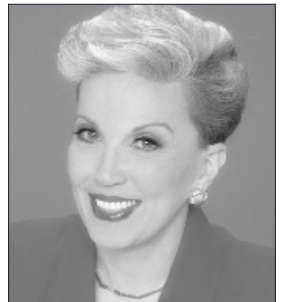
By AVIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY: I can’t stop thinking about the letter from the girl whose boyfriend threatened to kill her parents if she breaks up with him.

When my cousin was 14, her parents forced her to break up with a boy who was too old for her. His solution was to shoot her and himself. She survived but was left a paraplegic.

Your advice to that girl was right on. You advised her to tell her parents immediately. That way, they can take the necessary precautions. The girl should not assume that her own life is safe. Logic has nothing to do with obsession, and that boy is clearly obsessed.

CONCERNED IN CANTON, GA.



Dear Abby

DEAR CONCERNED: When I printed that letter, I thought it was unusual. To my dismay, I have a bushel of mail and e-mail on my desk that proves otherwise. Read on for a sample:

DEAR ABBY: Your advice to “Anonymous in Fort Myers, Fla.” was correct. When I was a teen, my best friend was also dating a controlling guy her parents weren’t too sure about. He raped her, but she stayed with him anyway.

When she became pregnant, he beat her almost to death. She lost the baby and very nearly her life. Please let that girl know how important it is for that guy to be out of her and her family’s lives.

LORI IN FORT BELVOIR, VA.

DEAR LORI: You’re right. If the young man would threaten the lives of her parents because he wasn’t getting his way, it doesn’t take a large leap of logic to conclude that at some point, he could turn on her. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: Lifelong sufferers of domestic violence often begin that sad journey as teenagers, tolerating violent behavior from boyfriends. The boy in that letter isn’t the only one who has mental problems. So does the girl. If her first serious relationship is with a boy as psychotic as that one and her problems are not addressed, she will continue to think that kind of behavior is normal.

LONGTIME READER IN KANSAS

DEAR LONGTIME READER: Good point. Furthermore, the girl’s first priority must be to protect her family.

DEAR ABBY: I was 17 when I tried to break off with a jealous and controlling boy like that one. He hinted that our house would not be safe, but I told no one. If I had turned him in, many lives would have turned out better.

About 10 years later, my mom saw him on television in a jail interview. He had raped more than 50 young women.

“Anonymous” should also tell her school counselor and the police about his threats in case his anger turns toward her. His parents also need to be told so they can get him the help he needs.

SAN DIEGO READER

DEAR READER: I agree with that.

DEAR ABBY: I was in her shoes between the ages of 16 and 18. My boyfriend told me if I didn’t move in with him, he’d kill my parents. So I moved in. It was pure hell. He broke my wrist, cracked my ribs, bruised me frequently—for the rest of my life, I’ll have scars as painful daily reminders.

She cannot change him. He may say he’d never hurt her, but she should listen to the threats he is already making. She must get him out of her life. I learned this firsthand. My former boyfriend is now in prison for killing his 9-month-old daughter.

STILL RECOVERING IN OHIO

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby’s most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

WONDERWORD

By DAVID
DUELLE

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle. They can be found horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backwards. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The answer letters spell out the Wonderword.

TRAVELING OVERSEAS

Solution: A letters

S S I P R I C E L P H D A L
P E Y T A S N O S O E E U
A N S T A I S P N S D G S N
M I D E N L A E T I G G A
A L S L C O I Y I N A N I E L
N R P A R N M N S G I E D T P
I I V E E O A S E T R S N I G
H A S M O T W R I O N C U O A
C T I N I E A C F R G E E B L
A T R O P I X L O A U R V C T
F N O R T F P U U B O O F F
B E R F S T O G E S N R T U J
H U A I O E N P O N N I O R P
E R T H C A R S L L S O R A T
E E N O L A D A T E F E C Y D

2/3
Abroad, Africa, Agent, Airfare, Airlines, Alone, As a, Beach, Business, Cars, China, City, Consulate, Country, Data, Destination, Etcetera, Events, Exotic, Expenses, Foreign, France, Golf, Greece, Group, Honey-moon, Hotel, India, Italy, Jetlag, Language, Lodge, Luggage, Maps, Money, Old, People, Plane, Price, Rent, Resort, Rest, Sea, Season, Time, Tourism, Vacation, World.
Yesterday's Answer: Bonhomie

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Following customers
5 Burell
8 Piece of work
12 Funny or blabby
13 Shreck's partner
14 Ashford's professor
15 With 19- Across: slushy
18 News carrier
19 Sue 13- Across
21 Child
24 Trug
25 Bear fair
28 Bryan of "Malcolm in the Middle"
30 Sugar suffix
31 All (card game)
32 Wet under
33 More than happy

DOWN

35 Apricots' in 'ards
36 Ond
37 Whose wine? he
38 With 40- Across: slushy
41 French pronoun
42 Timber
43 See 38
48 Eastern
49 Heavy weight
50 La Scala
51 Basil's area

DOWN

1 Acquaints
2 Chair
3 Slur
4 Tallant's look
5 Agency
6 Possess
7 Chicago score
8 Periodic
9 Hanna
10 Menard
11 Walkman
12 Carillon
13 Clavin
14 Clavin
15 Clavin
16 Clavin
17 Clavin
18 Clavin
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47 Clavin

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterday's answer: 2-3

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-225-5555. Six per minute. Launch technology. Prices: 11¢ only. A King Features service. NY, NY.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY

Morgan Fairchild, Norman Rockwell, Blythe Danner, Jennifer Candy

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: You will discover your true calling this year. This will be the year to rid yourself of any complexes you have had in the past. Put your ideas into motion and you will prosper both mentally and financially. Your numbers are 3,9,16,27,36,45

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD
IN ASTROLOGY



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ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Don't argue with loved ones today. Spend more time taking care of your personal papers and less time in discussion. Plan your actions carefully. □□



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

Spend time with people who can offer you information. You may want to check the Internet for last-minute vacation offers. Be accommodating and helpful today. □□□□



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

Check into your career options. You will have the opportunity to follow a path you had given up on a long time ago. You are the only one holding you back. □□□



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

It's all in the way you handle yourself and others today. Be kind and generous, and you will get the same in return. Complain and nag, and you will face problems. □□□



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

The more creative you are, the better the results will be. Taking part in a cultural event will help you to see things differently. You will meet someone who makes an impression on you. □□□



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

You can make your mark today if you are willing to help a cause or group in trouble. Partnerships will form if you make the first move. You can easily impress the people you work with. □□□□



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Don't get dragged into gossip, especially in your workplace. You might damage your reputation if you are insensitive toward others. Stick to your job and keep an open mind when dealing with your peers. □□



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Consider all your options but make sure you pick the one that offers greatest creative adventure. Make what you enjoy doing into your career and you will achieve the success you've sought. □□□□□



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Try to deal with legal matters quickly and move on to what you should be doing. Money can be made if you aren't too greedy. If a deal appears to be too good, beware. □□□



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

You'll have to stay on top of things today. Underestimating someone who challenges you will be your downfall. Be creative in whatever you do. □□□



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Don't even think about slacking today. Productivity will be the key to getting ahead and impressing others. This is a perfect day to push your ideas. □□□



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

Think about the possibilities if you decide to take a trip that will combine business with pleasure. You may be able to change your future by engaging in something that is a little bit unusual. □□□□□

BIRTHDAY BABY: You are sensitive and in tune with the universe around you. You have a built-in strength, are passionate about life and are always willing to help others.

Check out Eugenia's Web sites at astroadvice.com and eugenialast.com.

MAKE-A-WISH

With the power of a wish, you can make a difference in the life of a child. Make a wish today. Call 1-800-4-A-WISH or visit www.makeawish.com. Your wish could be the start of a new life.

Ziggy®

BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU FISH FOR

Don't let your kids catch anything but the good stuff. Use Ziggy's fishing lure to catch the good stuff. Ziggy's fishing lure is the only one that catches the good stuff. Ziggy's fishing lure is the only one that catches the good stuff.

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Calvin and Hobbes

Calvin: "I'm gonna be a doctor!"
Hobbes: "You're gonna be a doctor?"
Calvin: "I'm gonna be a doctor!"
Hobbes: "You're gonna be a doctor?"

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

Adam's grooming tips for men:

No. 2

Never use pliers when plucking your eyebrows.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Garfield

Garfield: "YOU LOOK DIFFERENT."
Jon: "HAVE YOU LOST WEIGHT?"
Garfield: "OH, NO, WAIT! THAT'S NOT IT! YOU'RE EMPTY! THAT'S WHAT IT IS!"

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

The Duplex

Two men are talking. One says: "I'm gonna be a doctor!" The other says: "You're gonna be a doctor?"



The official rules for both runs are as follows:

All registered runners must be checked-in prior to the start time; all runners must remain on the ocean side of Beach Road throughout the course; all runners must also remain on the shoulder of the road within coned areas.

Running anywhere else may result in a disqualification.

An official will be stationed at each turn-around marker for check-off. Runners not checked off will be disqualified from the competition.

The 10k turn-around is located across the Saipan Bowling Center in San Jose. The turn-around marker for the Half Marathon is at the San Antonio Beach Park just



SPORTS BRIEFS

122 CONFIRMED
From Page 28



So far, 11 tournaments slated by BANMI

Eleven basketball tournaments and still counting.

27

Saipan Tribune Sports

O'Neal's Pacers stop Pistons' 13-game winning streak

Jermaine O'Neal had 28 points and 15 rebounds to help the Indiana Pacers snap the Detroit Pistons' 13-game winning streak Tuesday with an 81-69 victory.

25



28 THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2004

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

122 confirmed for Half Marathon/10K

Race orientation tomorrow

By SHAN SEMAN
REPORTER

A total of 122 competitors, mostly from Japan, have confirmed participating in the upcoming Saipan Half Marathon/10K Fun Run, which will take place this Saturday, January 24.

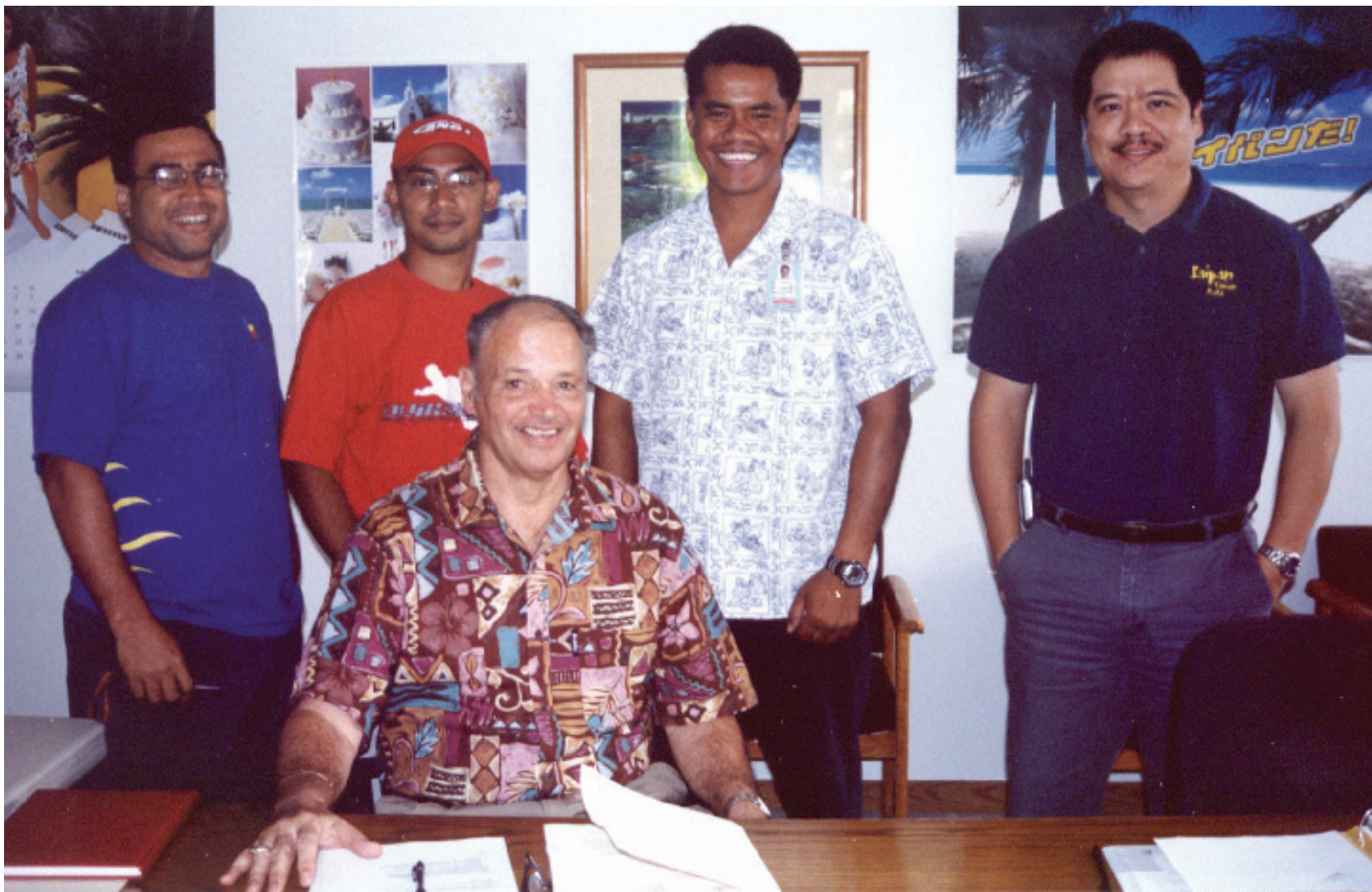
Off the 122 runners, 79 will see action in the 23rd Annual Half Marathon while 43 will slug it out for supremacy in the 18th Annual 10K Fun Run.

Those figures were released yesterday during a meeting between the Marianas Visitors Authority and Northern Mariana Islands Track and Field Federation at the MVA office in San Jose.

According to Ed Johnson of MVA, over 50 percent of the total number of participants are from Japan.

"We were working closely with our offices in Japan and Korea, and as of today [January 21], more than 50 percent are from Japan," he said. "Majority from Japan are above 50 years old and have participated in this event for 10-plus years. It is a well known event, formerly known as the MVA Buffalo Fun Run, so runners from Japan are pretty familiar with it."

Prior to the event, all participants are encouraged to attend a race orientation tomorrow, January 23, at the MVA parking lot. A briefing for all non-English speaking runners will be held at 4:30pm while English-speaking competitors will have their orientation



SHAN SEMAN

Organizers of the upcoming Saipan Half Marathon/10K Championships strike a pose for a photo during a meeting yesterday at the Marianas Visitors Authority conference room. Standings from left to right are Elias Rangamar and Robin Eugenio of the Northern Mariana Islands Track and Field Federation, and Ed Johnson and Martin Duenas of the MVA. Sitting is NMITFF president Kurt Barnes.

at 5pm. MVA will also provide translators and account staff to handle payments of fees.

The fee required to compete in either

runs is \$30. However, the last day, to register is Saturday between 4:30 and 5:15am during the pre-race check-in. Both races will then get underway at 5:

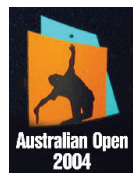
30am at the intersection of the American Memorial Park and Beach Road just north of the Department of Public Safety Garapan Substation. Runners

will work their way south along Beach Road and back track to the finish line, also located at the intersection.

See 122 CONFIRMED on Page 27

Roddick, Agassi win at Australian Open

By JOHN PYE
AP SPORTS WRITER



MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Top-ranked Andy Roddick and defending champion Andre Agassi breezed into the third round of the Australian Open by winning in straight sets Wednesday over Czech rivals.

Agassi had a 6-0, 6-2, 6-4 win over 18-year-old Tomas Berdych, closing with an ace in 1 hour 22 minutes. Roddick fired 20 aces and didn't lose a point on his first serve in the third set of a 6-2, 6-2, 6-3 win over Bohdan Ulihrach.

Roddick set up triple match point with a curling forehand winner down the line and finished it off in 1:13 with a booming first-serve winner.

Justine Henin-Hardenne, ranked No. 1 and winner at Wimbledon and the U.S. Open in 2003, had a 6-1, 6-4 win over childhood friend Camille Pin of France in her second-round match.

See Roddick on Page 27



AP

Andre Agassi of the U.S. reacts after his second round win over Tomas Berdych of the Czech Republic at the Australian Open in Melbourne, Australia, Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2004. Agassi won in straight sets 6-0, 6-2, 6-4.

Youth Volleyball canceled as teams pull out

By SHAN SEMAN
REPORTER

Just last week, it seemed like everything was set for another thrilling season of youth volleyball action.

That, however, won't be the case as Division of Sports and Recreation staff Jovie Omar stated yesterday that officials have decided to cancel the Island-wide Youth Volleyball League 2004 season due to an insufficient number of teams participating.

Omar said that the Marianas High School Dolphins and the Kagman High School Ayuyus pulled out of the competition after learning that it will coincide with another volleyball league that they've committed to. The other league is being coordinated by the Marianas Inter-scholastic Sports Association—the sports body for high schools. She also hinted but did not confirm that the Saipan Southern High School Manta Rays might have also pulled out to compete in the MISA league.

With the three teams withdrawing, the boys division was left with just one team—Shag. Only two teams remained in the girls' division—Chickas and the Grace Christian Academy Eagles—forcing officials to call the league off.

For the record, the league featured just one official result in 2004. Last Thursday, the defending champions Chickas were scheduled to battle the Eagles in the season-opener, but suited up just four players for the match, resulting in the Eagles winning via forfeit.

The league, normally held in November, was postponed several times towards the end of last year due to the same reason it was canceled. Earlier in the month, officials were positive as more teams signed up for competition. A total of 20 games were scheduled to take place in the girls' division while the boys' corner would've featured 12 matches in the regular season.

